



Inside Illinois DNR

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IDNR Careers

IDNR offers a wide array of professional careers in the conservation and natural resource arena. [Click here](#) to see the job openings available.

www.dnr.illinois.gov

Message from Director Colleen Callahan



The news is out, and it's got a lot of people talking.

On June 22, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources revealed a new commercial brand name for Asian invasive carp – “Copi.”

Developing and marketing a commercial brand is a bold move by the agency, which is uniquely tasked not only with managing these prolific fish, but also with doing everything in our power to keep them out of Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes.

Asian carp are fast-growing and copious in Illinois waters, out-competing native fish for resources. An estimated 70% of the biomass in the Illinois River is invasive carp. And the Illinois River is the most direct connection between the Mississippi River and Lake Michigan. They can be found in many other Illinois waterways, too.

Managing invasive carp is a huge responsibility that IDNR embraces because of the extensive environmental and economic damage they can cause.

But while these fish are aquatic pests, they also taste delicious and present appealing opportunities for the food, restaurant and commercial fishing industries.

For these reasons and more, we've adopted an all-hands-on-deck approach to the problem.

IDNR is the nonfederal sponsor of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' project to install barriers at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam near Joliet to block the fish from advancing up the Illinois River to Lake Michigan. This is an important initiative that many states and the federal government are counting on.

The Corps also has established electrical barriers in the Chicago Area Waterway System.

And IDNR has contracted with commercial fishers to strategically remove invasive carp from the upper Illinois River to keep densities low and reduce an upstream pressure on the barrier system.

Giving the fish a catchy new identity wasn't something IDNR did on a whim. We did it to encourage hesitant diners to give it a try and then, hopefully, request it at their favorite stores and restaurants. Eventually, we believe interest and demand for Copi – a tasty, healthful and locally sourced protein – will help an industry take hold.

No, we can't simply eat our way to an invasive-carp-free Illinois. But the rebranding and marketing of Copi is an important part of a science-based, long-term, comprehensive strategy to protect our waters.

Be sure to #choosecopi and help spread the word.

DNR in the News

From 'carp' to 'copi':
unpopular fish getting
a makeover

Bird lovers, rejoice: Illinois
advisory against bird feeders
and baths has been lifted

Archeology field school
explores Fort Kaskaskia State
Historic Site

A Lesson in Tolerance:
Sharing the trail with a
protective mother bobcat

Statewide Offices

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

Highlights



Popular Illinois land conservation program reopens

Farmers, ranchers and agricultural landowners with property prone to flooding and nutrient runoff will have the opportunity to enroll in Illinois' reopened land conservation program, now available in 68 counties. The [Illinois Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program \(CREP\)](#) - administered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA) - is one of the oldest and most popular in the nation and an important tool in addressing climate change and natural resources conservation challenges.



Sangamon County partners with the Illinois State Museum on exhibition for the Springfield-Sangamon County Transportation Hub

The Illinois State Museum and Sangamon County are partnering to design and build an exhibit at the future [Springfield-Sangamon County Transportation Hub](#) that will feature artifacts and information about the race riot in 1908 in Springfield, officials announced. Artifacts from the race riot in 1908 were discovered during the rail relocation project near Madison Street and the 10th Street railroad corridor in Springfield.



Conservation World - Illinois State Fair

Plan to join us at [Conservation World](#) at the 2022 Illinois State Fair in Springfield. Conservation World, a 30-acre park on the state fairgrounds, will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Aug. 12-21 with free activities and entertainment for families.



American Trapshooting Association - Grand American

The World Shooting and Recreational Complex in Sparta will host the [123rd Grand American World Trapshooting Championships](#) Aug. 3-13. This is the largest shooting event of its kind.

Highlights



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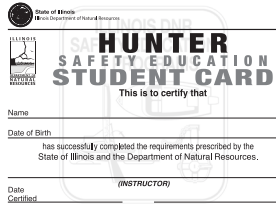
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Register for a safety education class

Illinois has four mandatory [safety education programs](#) - boating, hunting, trapping and snowmobiling. Classes are being scheduled, so register today.



Apply for firearm and muzzleloader hunting permits

Illinois residents and nonresidents can apply for the [third lottery deer firearm and muzzleloader](#) hunting season permits from July 11 to Aug. 19.



Fall turkey hunting permit application second lottery

Illinois residents who did not apply or were not successful in the first lottery drawing and nonresidents can apply for a [2022 fall turkey hunting permit](#) from July 15 to Aug. 22.



Check out a video podcast

The [IDNR Division of Education](#) offers hundreds of video podcasts. Ranging from informational to lesson demonstrations, with the variety of topics, there is something for everyone. Podcasts also can be found on YouTube.



IDNR is hiring

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has numerous [job openings](#) at sites throughout the state. Find an opportunity near you and apply today.



[Click for info](#)

Join today for just \$35!



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By becoming a member of the ICF, your support will help build, preserve, and restore conservation across Illinois. As an ICF member, you'll also receive these exclusive member benefits:

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- ICF Vinyl Sticker
- ICF's Digital Newsletter
- VIP Opportunities at Future ICF Events

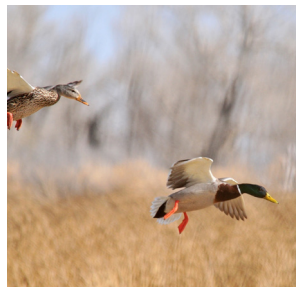


<https://ilconservation.org/Who-We-Are/ICF-Membership>



Lincoln's New Salem children's exhibit open

[A new children's play exhibit](#) is now open at Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site in Menard County. The exhibit can be found in the former Stone Museum shop. The dedicated space includes activities to encourage pretend play after young visitors see 1830s period demonstrations and daily life throughout the historic village.



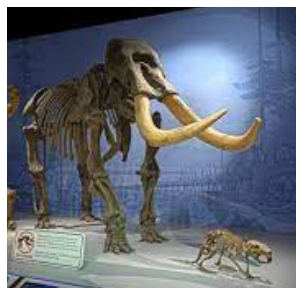
Waterfowl Blind Drawing

Drawings for IDNR's one-year waterfowl blind allocations for public hunting areas will take place July 30-31. Please check dnr.illinois.gov and IDNR's social media channels for more details in the coming days.



Independence Day celebration at Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site

[Celebrate Independence Day](#) at Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site with period demonstrations and a reading of the Declaration of Independence each day. The celebration happens between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. July 1, 2, and 5.



Summer Camp at the Illinois State Museum

A variety of [summer camps](#) are available at Illinois State Museum in Springfield. "Fresh Eats: Exploring Food Science" for ages 8-11, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. July 11 to July 15, and "Dinosaurs vs. Mammoths" for ages 6-8, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. July 18 to July 22. Check online for more details about these and other camp opportunities.



Take a guided tour of Volo Bog

[Take a guided tour of Volo Bog](#), Illinois' only open-water quaking bog. Tours occur at 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. and last about one hour. Registration is requested and tours are limited to 12 people. Participants will meet in front of the visitor center.

Highlights



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Learn to fish at Cache River State Natural Area

[Enjoy a free youth catch-and-release clinic](#) at Cache River State Natural Area, Barkhausen-Cache River Wetlands Center, in southern Illinois. The clinics are 10 a.m. to noon July 7 and 21. Instructors will present information on fish and other aquatic life; fishing rules and regulations; and basic instructions on baiting a hook, tying a knot and more.



Black Hawk State Historic Site's Summer Celebration

[Celebrate Black Hawk State Historic site's 95th birthday](#) with the release of the second edition of our publication, "Twelve Moons: A Year with the Sauk and Meskwaki, 1817-1818." Books will be for sale. The event is 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. July 24.



Habitat and State Pheasant Fund grant programs

IDNR is now accepting applications for the Habitat and State Pheasant Fund grant programs. Applications will be accepted through Aug. 1. For more information about these and other IDNR grant opportunities, [click here](#).



Take in a show at Theatre in the Park at New Salem

Order tickets today for an outdoor performance of the musical "[Babes in Arms](#)" at Theatre in the Park at Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site. Performances are July 22-24 and July 28-30. This quintessential "Hey, kids, let's put on a show!" musical boasts one of the greatest scores ever written.



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Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; 217/785-0067; TTY 217/782-9175.

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